

**Urban District of Consett**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1949**

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JOHN G. WALKER,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH, BUILDING AND  
SANITARY COMMITTEE, 1949.

Chairman : J. H. Coun. TEMPLE.

Vice-Chairman : F. H. Coun. CURRAN.

Couns. R. Bell, A. Bridgewater, J. Hunt,  
J. Mawson, R. Mohon, E. Smith, S. B. Stewart,  
T. A. Walton, W. Walton and S. W. Smith.

Also Chairman of the Council,

Coun. J. W. Wilkinson, J.P. (Ex-officio).

Vice-Chairman of the Council,

Coun. W Beck (Ex-officio).

Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspectors, Shop's  
Inspector and Rodent Officer's Department,  
Health Department,  
Medomsley Road,  
Consett.

Telephone : Consett 352.



Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Medomsley Road,  
Consett.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF CONSETT URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Mohon and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your District during 1949. On the whole the Vital Statistics can be regarded as satisfactory as will be seen in the pages which follow.

Mr. F. Stringfellow, Chief Sanitary Inspector, retired on April 30th, 1950, after long and faithful service with the Council. I had nearly 25 years of his co-operation, and gratefully acknowledge his help. He did much to improve the town and was a most helpful colleague. Mr. Walton was promoted to fill his place.

The National Health Service Act seems to be operating smoothly in the district.

Housing is still the great problem and the waiting lists seem to grow larger. There are many applications for priority on the grounds of tuberculosis, and we have difficulty in dealing with unfit houses in the area during the present shortage of houses.

Meat and Food inspection is carried out diligently with good results. I thank my colleagues in all departments for their willing help during the year.

The appreciation and support of the Chairman and all Members of the Council in all Public Health matters is greatly valued and a great encouragement.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. G. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

### Summary of General and Vital Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,840
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,046
Population (estimated by the Registrar General) 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,900
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at the end of 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,100
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£176,192
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£662
Births during 1949—708. Birthrate	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.2
Deaths during 1949—463. Crude Deathrate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	40.9
Tuberculosis Deathrate, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.61
Pulmonary—0.61. Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Zymotic Deathrate, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02

#### CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT.

Consett is an industrial town and originated just over 100 years ago. The Consett Iron Company Ltd. and The National Coal Board are the largest employers in the district and the prosperity of the town is dependent on Iron, Steel and Coal.

As can be expected there is a considerable amount of dust and grime associated with these industries, and whilst those responsible do their utmost to keep it at a minimum we cannot yet boast of being a clean town and constant efforts are made to try and improve matters.

Some compensation for the dirt is gained by the existence of a beautiful countryside within a few minutes journey of the town.

Parts of the Derwent Valley within easy reach are a natural beauty spot and worth developing as such.

The district was constituted a Local Board Division in 1865 with an area of 1,005 acres and a population of 7,000. It now extends over 9,840 acres with a population of 38,900. The town



stands at a high altitude being nearly 900 feet above sea level in its highest parts and sloping steeply down to the River Derwent which forms its boundary on the north for a considerable distance.

#### SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND INDUSTRIES.

Few towns could better the social spirit that exists in Consett. The many active associations, both voluntary and official, that operate in the area are proof of this. It has always been the policy of your Health Department to maintain close touch with these services.

As mentioned before the Consett Iron Company Ltd. and the National Coal Board are the main sources of industry in the area. Extensive reconstruction is going on in the works of the former and we gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of the officials of both concerns in any matter we have to bring before them.

There are 53 farms registered as dairies in the area and 591 premises liable to inspection under the Shops Act, the latter employing 1,086 persons.

A new trading estate is being laid out in the Castleside area, which whilst actually in Lanchester Rural District, will draw most of its workers from the Consett area.

#### SPECIAL CAUSES OF SICKNESS, EFFECTS OF OCCUAPTION, ETC.

There were no exceptional causes of sickness during the year and apart from accidents associated with heavy industries there appears to be no ill effects on the health of the workers by reason of these industries.

There is no statistical evidence to show that food rationing has adversely affected the health of the population, on the contrary infants and young children certainly look and are in better health than at any time. The supply of vitamins and milk foods at the Welfare Centres can claim a large share of the improvement.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	686	358	328	Birthrate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—18.2.
	Illegitimate	22	7	15	
	Totals	708	365	343	
Still Births	Legitimate	24	10	14	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—35.4
	Illegitimate	2	2	—	
	Total	26	12	14	
		Total	M.	F.	
Deaths from all causes		463	238	225	Deathrate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—11.9

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH—1949

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boros. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Consett Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
<i>Births.</i>					
Live Births ... ..	16.7 (a)	18.7	18.0	18.5	18.2
Still Births ... ..	0.39 (a)	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.66
<i>Deaths.</i>					
All Causes ... ..	11.7 (a)	12.5	11.6	12.2	11.9
Typhoid and para- typhoid ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough ... ..	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ... ..	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.61
Influenza ... ..	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.15
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis & polioencephalitis ... ..	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ... ..	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	0.30
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>					
Typhoid fever ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	Nil.
Paratyphoid fever ... ..	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	Nil.
Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	Nil.
Scarlet fever... ..	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	1.3
Whooping cough ... ..	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	0.49
Diphtheria ... ..	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.02
Erysipelas ... ..	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.02
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nil.
Measles ... ..	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	3.6
Pneumonia ... ..	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	0.23
Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	Nil.
Acute polioence- phalitis ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	Nil.
Food poisoning ... ..	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	Nil.
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
<i>Deaths.</i>					
All causes under 1 year of age ... ..	32 (b)	37	30	29	40.9
Enteritis and Diarr- hoea under 2 years of age ... ..	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	1.4
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births					
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>					
Puerperal fever and pyrexia ... ..	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	

The following figures relate to Consett Urban District :—

		Rate per 1,000 (Live Deaths from Puerperal Causes. Deaths. and Still) Births.	
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis ...	1	2.7
No. 30.	Other Puerperal Causes	1	

Deathrate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	40.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births			36.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Births			90.9
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	72
Deaths from Measles ...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...		1
Population estimated by the Registrar-General,			
1949	...	...	38,900

#### POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for mid-year 1949, was 38,900. This is an increase of 80 on last year's figure. The population at the 1931 Census was 38,046, the figures for the last ten years are given in the following table :—

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Popula- tion	37,040	37,040	36,210	35,320	35,050	35,310	36,760	37,040	38,820	38,900

#### BIRTHS, BIRTHRATE, ETC.

The birthrate was lower than any since 1941 and 1943. It was 18.2 per thousand of the population compared with 16.7 for England and Wales and 18.0 for 148 Smaller Towns having a population of 25,000 to 50,000. The rate for the Administrative County was 18.8. The following table gives the births and birthrates for the past 10 years :—

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Births	676	639	671	602	732	694	751	780	737	708
Rate	18.2	17.2	18.5	17.0	20.8	19.6	20.4	21.0	18.9	18.2

## SEX DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.

There were 365 male and 343 female births, the ratio being 1000 males to 939 females.

## DEATHS, DEATHRATE, ETC.

There were 463 deaths in 1949, which was 46 more than the 417 of last year. The rate is 11.9 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales was 11.7, whilst that for 148 Smaller Towns was 11.6. The rate for the Administrative County was 11.6.

The number of deaths and the rates for the last 10 years is given in the following table :—

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Deaths	469	409	433	432	434	435	415	415	417	463
Death-rate	12.6	11.0	11.9	12.2	12.0	12.3	11.2	11.2	10.7	11.9

## ZYMOTIC DEATHRATE.

There was only 1 death from the principal infectious diseases. This was 2 less than last year and gives an exceptionally low zymotic deathrate of 0.02. The rate for the Administrative County was 0.11 and the rates for the last 10 years are shown in the following table :—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Zymotic Deathrate	0.21	0.11	0.24	0.14	0.00	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.02

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were 2 deaths from puerperal causes during 1949, this gives a maternal mortality rate of 2.7 per 1,000 total births which is higher than that of recent years. The rate for the Administrative County was a low one of 1.20. The rates in the Consett Urban District for the last ten years are given in the following table :—

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	2	5	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Totals</i>	2	5	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	2
Rate per 1,000 total births	2.87	7.55	2.8	1.5	1.3	0	0	1.2	0	2.7

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

There were 29 deaths in infants under 1 year of age, compared with 41 last year, this gives an infant mortality rate of 40.9, one of the lowest we have ever had but high compared with 32 for England and Wales and 30 for 148 Smaller Towns. The rate for the Administrative County was 44. The table which follows gives the infant mortality rate for the last 10 years :—

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Rate per 1,000 births	59	66	59	46	43	49	39	36	55	41



The causes of death in these children and their ages are shown in the following table :—

CAUSE OF DEATH. Infants under 1 year of age.	Under 1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	4 Months	5 Months	6 Months	7 Months	8 Months	9 Months	10 Months	11 Months
Premature Birth ...	12											
Prematurity & Broncho Pneumonia ...												
Bronchitis, Gastro-enteritis ...				1								
Broncho-Pneumonia ...		1	1		2		1					
Infantile Convulsions ...					1			1				
Violence ...								1				
Congenital Heart Disease ...	1											
Cerebral-Haemorrhage ...	1											
Patent Foramen Ovale ...	1											
Meningitis & Spina-Bifida ...	1											
Gastro-enteritis ...												
Congenital Heart Disease ...												1
Congenital Cardiac Malformation ...	1											
Meningo Myocele ...			1									

#### CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death are set out in the following table, and it will be noted that 2.8 per cent of the deaths were due to birth injuries, whilst violent causes accounted for another 2.3 per cent. Tuberculosis was responsible for 5.1 per cent and Cancer for 15.5 per cent. The chest diseases Bronchitis and Pneumonia were responsible for 7.7 per cent and inter-cranial vascular lesions caused 13.1 per cent. We get high figures in respect of heart disease, 27.0 per cent but it must be remembered that this is often given as a terminal cause of death in very elderly people.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
All causes ...	238	225
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers ...	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—
3. Scarlet fever ...	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	—	—
5. Diphtheria ...	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	13	11
7. Other forms of tuberculosis ...	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases ...	1	—

Causes of Death.						Males.	Females.
9.	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	2	4
10.	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis					—	—
12.	Acute infectious encephalitis ...	...	...			—	—
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity ...	...	...			3	—
	Cancer of uterus ...	...	...			—	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum			...		11	7
15.	Cancer of breast ...	...	...			1	11
16.	Cancer of all other sites ...	...	...			24	14
17.	Diabetes ...	...	...			3	1
18.	Inter-cranial vascular lesions			...		31	30
19.	Heart disease ...	...	...			62	63
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system			...		8	8
21.	Bronchitis ...	...	...			11	9
22.	Pneumonia ...	...	...			6	6
23.	Other respiratory diseases			...		2	2
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum			...		6	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			...		—	1
26.	Appendicitis ...	...	...			—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases			...		6	2
28.	Nephritis ...	...	...			9	7
29.	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis			...		—	1
30.	Other maternal causes			...		—	1
31.	Premature birth ...	...	...			3	3
32.	Congenital malformity, birth injuries, etc.					7	6
33.	Suicide ...	...	...			1	2
34.	Road traffic accidents			...		1	1
35.	Other violent causes			...		5	4
36.	All other causes ...	...	...			22	30

#### STILL BIRTHS.

There were 26 still births during 1949 compared with 17 last year. 24 of these were legitimate births. This gives a rate of 0.66 per 1,000 population which is higher than the rate for 148 comparable towns which was 0.40. The rate for England and Wales was 0.39 per 1,000 of the population. The following table gives the rates for the last 10 years, both per thousand population and per thousand births :—



Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Total Number	21	23	36	34	31	27	34	20	17	26
Rate per 1,000 population	0.56	0.62	0.99	0.96	0.88	0.76	0.92	0.54	0.43	0.66
Rate per 1,000 total births	30.1	34.7	50.9	53.4	40.6	37.4	43.3	25.6	22.5	35.4

### CANCER MORTALITY.

There were 72 deaths from Cancer during 1949 which is 19 more than last year and forms 15.5 per cent of the total deaths. There were 39 males and 33 females.

### SITE OF DISEASE ACCORDING TO SEX.

MALE.				FEMALE.			
Colon	...	...	3	Colon	...	...	6
Rectum	...	...	3	Rectum	...	...	1
Stomach	...	...	10	Stomach	...	...	4
Pancreas	...	...	6	Thyroid	...	...	1
Chest Wall	...	...	1	Liver	...	...	1
Prostate	...	...	2	Intestine	...	...	1
Oesophagus	...	...	3	Abdomen	...	...	1
Skin ...	...	...	1	Ovary	...	...	3
Thyroid	...	...	1	Bile Duct	...	...	1
Liver ...	...	...	1	Breast	...	...	10
Mouth	...	...	1	Cervix	...	...	2
Intestine	...	...	1	Bowel	...	...	1
Bronchus	...	...	1	Brain	...	...	1
Other Sites	...	...	5				
—				—			
Total	...	...	39	Total	...	...	33
=				=			

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(a) Medical Officer of Health :—

JOHN G. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Offices and duties : Whole-time Medical Officer of Health for the joint areas of the Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural District Councils, in accordance with the Memorandum on the duties of Medical Officers of Health, and the Sanitary Officers Order, 1935.

(b) Chief Sanitary Inspector, F. STRINGFELLOW (Retired April, 1950)  
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors.  
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors.

The duties of this appointment which is whole-time are as set out in the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

(c) Additional Sanitary Inspectors :—

H. WALTON, Cert. S.I.B.                      W. TELFORD, Cert. S.I.B.

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors.

These appointments are subject to the approval of the Minister of Health and 50% of the salaries are payable from County Funds.

(d) Shops Inspector :—

R. P. JOPE.

(e) Clerical Staff :—

Chief Clerk : Miss P. E. BARROW.

Clerk : W. A. ROBERTS.

Junior Clerk : Miss M. MARTIN.

(f) Rodent Officer :—

T. McALOON.

(g) Home Visitor, Assistant Clerk, etc. :—

Miss E. A. PICKERING.

Medical Officers in connection with Schools, Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis, Food and Drugs Inspectors, Health Visitors, etc., carry out various Public Health activities in the district. These officers are appointed and controlled by the County Council. (Some changes occurred after July 5th, 1948)

**(1) LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

A scheme is in operation where specimens of pathological material can be examined for Public Health Officers or Medical Practitioners at the Central Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 5, Telephone No. Kenton 69319. Your Medical Officer of Health is available to assist in such matters with advice as to methods of collection, dispatch, etc. Water samples are sent to the above Laboratory for bacteriological examination and to the County Public Analyst, Darlington, in other cases.

**(2) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

Since July 5th, 1948, the local health authority has provided a 24 hour ambulance service from local headquarters at Villa Real, Consett, telephone No. Consett 411. This service after initial troubles has now got down to smooth working and appears to meet the needs of the district adequately.

**SERVICES IN THE AREA PROVIDED BY THE DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.**

Assistance with enquiries regarding these services will be furnished at the Public Health Department, Council Offices, Medomsley Road, Consett, on request.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.**

1. At Weatherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett.

Sessions for Babies are held all day Friday. Ante-Natal Clinics every Monday all day and Wednesday afternoons once a fortnight. Post-Natal and Birth Control Wednesday morning once a fortnight. Sunlight treatment Tuesday and Thursday afternoons weekly.

## 2. Blackhill.

Clinics held at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Durham Road. Babies, Thursday once a fortnight all day. Ante-Natal Clinics alternate Thursdays, afternoons only.

### CONVALESCENT HOME.

The E. F. Peile County Convalescent Home, Shotley Bridge, telephone Shotley Bridge 27, admits nursing mothers with their babies and children under 5 years of age.

### COUNTY MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

A domiciliary midwifery service is provided. The names and addresses of the midwives available can be obtained from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Health Visitors or from the County Medical Officer.

### HOME HELPS.

The services of "Home Help" are provided in necessitous cases during the laying-in period of the mother. Particulars can be obtained from Health Visitors, Welfare Centres or the County Home Help Organiser, 44, Old Elvet, Durham, Telephone Durham 980.

### TUBERCULOSIS CARE AND AFTER CARE COMMITTEE.

The Committee is composed of voluntary workers. The work is varied and includes the provision in necessitous cases of beds, bedding, clothing and extra nourishment. Patients are assisted as far as possible to obtain better housing accommodation, in some cases by means of grant for rent assistance. The Secretary, Tuberculosis Care and After Care Committee, Mr. J. Curry, Health Department, Shire Hall, Durham, will deal with enquiries.

### WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

The County Scheme includes education of blind children, training of approved workers, treatment for prevention of blindness, etc. Information regarding the services can be obtained from the County Medical Officer or from Miss K. A. J. Robson, 8, St. Andrews Gardens, Blackhill.

### CARE OF THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

Parents or relatives in charge of children or young adults who are mentally retarded or undeveloped are invited to communicate with the County Medical Officer or the District Health Visitors.

### SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Scheme provides for the systematic medical inspection of school children and for medical treatment of defects discovered. School Clinic, Wetheral House, Medomsley Road, Consett. Sessions Tuesdays and Fridays.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Sessions are held Wednesday afternoons weekly at the Clinic, Wetheral House, Medomsley Road, Consett, and once a month at 4 p.m. Wednesdays at Infant School, Benfieldside Road, Blackhill.

### HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT.

These are now under the control of the North West Durham Hospital Management Committee—Secretary: Mr. A. Lawther, Shotley Bridge Hospital, Shotley Bridge. Enquiries should be made of your own doctor or from the Bed Bureau, Shotley Bridge Hospital, telephone Shotley Bridge 118. The Hospitals under this group are :—

Shotley Bridge Hospital, Infectious Disease Hospital, Lanchester ; Lee Hill Hospital, Lanchester ; Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill ; and South Moor Hospital.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The public water supply is under the control of the Durham County Water Board and has been satisfactory both as to quantity and quality. Four samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination :—



1. April 26/49. House Tap, 1, Taylors Terrace, The Grove.  
Probable number of coliform bacilli present—1 per 100 ml.
2. Oct. 25/49. House Tap, Villa Real, Conssett.  
Probable number of coliform bacilli,  
McConkey, 2 days, 37°C, —160 per 100 ml.
3. Oct. 25/49. House Tap, The Avenue, Conssett.  
Coliform bacilli—0 per 100 ml.
4. Oct. 25/49. House Tap, 16, Siemens Street, Blackhill.  
Coliform bacilli—2 per 100 ml.

No samples were submitted for chemical analysis or for contamination by lead, and no ill effects have been traced to plumbo solvent action. Apart from any treatment the Board give to the raw water at the reservoir their regulations require that no lead service pipe shall be used in excess of 30 feet, after which distance it must be copper lined. The public water supply is provided on all the Council's new housing sites.

There are still 14 occupied cottages dependant upon runners, springs, etc., for their water supply. At one of these (Westwood Sewage Works Cottage) the results of bacteriological analysis have been consistently bad, the last report stating "Bacteriologically this is an unsatisfactory sample of water. The differential coliform test indicates the presence of B. Coli type 1 (Faecal)." The cost of providing public water to this isolated cottage would be very high and your Council decided to close it and to rehouse the occupier as early as possible. Analysis of the supply to other isolated cottages were as follows :—

1. Feb. 21/49. Gate Cottage, Hamsterley.  
"This is a fair sample of water. There is no indication of faecal contamination."
2. Feb. 15/49. Tank in field, Hamsterley Mill Farm.  
"This is an unsatisfactory sample of water."
3. April 26/49. Peters Well, Hamsterley Mill Farm.  
"Bacteriologically this is a highly satisfactory sample of water."

4. April 29/49. Derwentote Lodge, Hamsterley Estate.

“This is a satisfactory sample of water.”

5. June 7/49. Mill House, Ebehester.

“Bacteriologically this is a satisfactory sample of water.”

There are no stand pipes in the area and the whole of the dwelling houses are supplied with water from the public mains with the exception of the 14 houses referred to above.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The four sewage disposal works have given satisfactory results, and no serious trouble has been experienced. Samples of effluent have been good with the exception of the tank storage at Briar Dale. Fortunately these tanks have now been abolished and a new rising main and pumping station completed. A new 9" overflow has been provided from Benfieldside Road to the Slonks at Shotley Bridge and it is hoped this will abolish flooding in that area.

The 18" main sewer in the Hall Road was found to be badly blocked with fine grit and considerable work had to be done before the Sewer was again running freely. Special observations are being made in an effort to trace the source of any further deposit likely to lead to a recurrence of the trouble.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Excellent progress has again been made in the conversion of closets of the conservaney type to water closets, the bulk of this work has been done in the Allendale area.

The number and types of closet in the area at present are as follows :—

Water Closets	...	11,586
Ash Closets	...	493
Ashpit Privies	...	76

The complete clearance of the old privy and ash closet types is now in sight where there is a sufficient water supply and sewer, and a survey of the position reveals that a further 220 can be converted without difficulty and in addition 80 will be abolished as the result of unfit houses being vacated and not relet.

This will leave a figure of approximately 269 which will have to be given detailed consideration as many are isolated and have no sewers within reasonable distance.

#### HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL.

Your Council has pursued their policy of gradually eliminating contract work and with a further 10 cube yard vehicle in operation the districts now cleansed by Contractors have been reduced to two (Crookhall and Delves).

The conversion of Ash Closets to Water Closets and the provision of separate Ash Bins is now making it possible for the great majority of premises in the area to be visited weekly. The new gully emptying machine has been found of great value and has completely abolished all hand labour.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following figures are given relating to nuisances dealt with under the Public Health and Housing Acts.



			Informal Notices	Formal Notices by order of Local Authority.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Foul Conditions	...	...	11	—	11
Structural Defects	...	...	763	2	679
Overcrowding	...	...	10	—	10
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	3	—	3
Cowsheds	...	...	3	—	2
Bakehouses	...	...	4	—	4
Slaughter Houses	...	...	3	—	3
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	174	—	174
Deposits of Refuse	...	...	35	—	32
Water Closets	...	...	23	—	23
Drainage Faults	...	...	94	—	66
Water Supply	...	...	2	—	2
Animals improperly kept	...	...	4	—	4
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	1	—	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	22	—	21
Defective Ashbins renewed	...	...	228	—	213
			1,380	2	1,248

#### PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

62 houses were visited following notification of Infectious Diseases. Free disinfectants are supplied to the occupier for the cleansing of rooms and clothing. In 3 cases infectious bedding was destroyed. One school was disinfected at the request of the Education Authority.

#### FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

93 visits of inspection were made to various factories in the area. Levelling of land and road making appears to be completed at Moorside for use as a trading estate but no buildings have yet

been erected. There are only four outworkers employed in the area and these are confined to the alteration and repair of wearing apparel.

Premises.	No. on Register.	NUMBER OF		
		Inspection.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1/4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ... ..	46	28	2	Nil.
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 implies ... ..	87	65	9	Nil.
Total ...	133	93	11	Nil.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	1	—			
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	2	2		2	
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	1	1			
Other Offences ... ..	6	6			
Total ... ..	11	10	Nil	2	Nil

#### SHOP ACTS 1912-1936.

#### YOUNG PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT, 1938.

The majority of shops continue to close between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. daily. 21 shops are now closing on Saturdays, of which 9 are Ladies Hairdressers and 2 Gents Hairdressers. Regular and systematic inspection has been carried out. Visits to the 585 traders were made and 357 return visits were made in the evenings and on Sundays (to ensure that the requirements of the Acts were being carried out.

The appended table shows that 591 premises are liable for inspection. There are 1,086 assistants employed in 336 premises. 802 assistants are over the age of 18 years, 210 under the age of 18 years, and 74 under 16 years of age. The average hours worked by Young Persons are 43 hours per week. Included in the premises liable for inspection are 32 houses from which retail trade is carried out.

Nine traders were cautioned for selling goods after Closing Hours and four for non-observance of Closing Hours. Three cases of assistants working on their half holiday were observed and the employers were interviewed and cautioned. One instance of a Young Person working overtime without records having been kept was investigated and a trader was instructed to allow his assistants the statutory meal intervals. One employer was cautioned regarding overtime worked by Young Persons under 16 years. No prosecutions were taken at Court.

Seven traders were interviewed and requested to comply with the regulations regarding Sunday Trading. There are 47 premises open for trading on a Sunday of which 10 remain open all day and the remainder close about 1 p.m.

During the year a considerable increase has been noticed in the use of Mobile Shops by Traders. Difficulty regarding their observance of closing hours has been experienced and in order to assist in this the Council extended the closing hour on Fridays during the winter months to 7 p.m.

The undermentioned orders are in operation in the area :—

1. The Consett Butchers and Pork Butchers Half-Holiday Closing Order.
2. The Consett Weekly Half-Holiday Order in respect of :—  
 Boot and Shoe Dealers, Clothiers, Drapers, Milliners, Hosiers, Mercers, Furniture Dealers, Glass, China and Hardware Dealers, Ironmongers, Grocers and Provision Dealers, Jewellers, Pawnbrokers, Piano and Wireless

Dealers, Cycle Dealers, Stationers, Fancy Goods Dealers, Wallpaper and Paint Dealers, Lending Libraries and Seed and Corn Merchants.

3. The Shotley Bridge Weekly Half-Holiday Suspension Order.
4. The Shotley Bridge (Week-day) Closing Order.
5. The Shotley Bridge (Sunday Trading Restriction Act, 1936) Closing Order, No. 2.
6. Extension of Closing Hours for Tobacconists.

The Authority exercised its powers under Section 7 (2) of the Shops Act, 1928, and suspended Closing Hours on seven days in the year.

The same facility was granted to Hairdressers as in previous years in allowing them to remain open until 6-30 p.m. on days other than the late day during the period of Winter Closing Hours. The six Cinemas in the area continue to operate under the Shops Acts as permitted under Section 8 of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938. These Cinemas are now opening on Sundays and the provisions regarding persons employed on that day as stated in the Sunday Entertainment Act, 1936, have been checked and found in order.

The great majority of traders continue to observe and comply with the various provisions of the Acts and Closing Orders.

Under Section 10 of the Shops Acts, 1934, a detailed inspection is being made of all shop premises with particular regard to closet accommodation, washing facilities and heating, lighting and ventilation. Wherever necessary it is hoped to get improved conditions in conjunction with the new Byelaws relating to Handling and Wrapping of Food.

No. of premises liable to inspection.	Trade.	No. of premises where assistants are employed.	Males.		Females.			No. of persons employed.
			Over 18	Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Under 16	
3	Auctioneers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	Boot and Shoe Dealers ...	11	4	—	7	8	1	20
36	Butchers and Pork Butchers...	32	51	13	—	6	1	71
80	Bakers, Caterers and Confectioners ...	35	—	—	72	9	7	88
12	Chemists and Photographers...	6	5	1	12	9	6	30
47	Clothiers, Drapers, Milliners ...	35	26	1	87	29	7	151
13	Coal Dealers ...	12	18	5	—	—	—	23
10	Fish Dealers ...	1	—	—	2	—	—	2
20	Fried Fish Dealers ...	15	2	—	23	7	—	32
44	Fruiters and Florists ...	17	26	2	20	5	—	53
4	Furniture Dealers ...	3	5	—	4	1	—	10
67	Grocers and Provision Dealers ...	51	129	23	113	36	20	329
30	General Dealers ...	7	2	1	28	15	11	57
11	Glass, China, Hardware Dealers, Ironmongers	6	6	1	7	6	1	22
40	Hairdressers ...	16	6	1	10	6	2	26
4	Hostiers and Mercers ...	2	—	—	3	1	—	4
7	Jewellers, Pawnbrokers ...	2	1	—	2	—	—	3
69	Licensed Victuallers ...	42	47	—	37	—	—	84
20	Motor Engineers, Cycle & Wireless Dealers...	9	4	2	5	1	—	12
15	Newsagents, Stationers, Fancy Goods Dealers	11	5	—	11	3	2	21
3	Tobacconists ...	3	—	—	3	3	3	9
5	Wallpaper and Paint Dealers ...	3	—	—	4	1	1	6
30	Miscellaneous ...	12	11	—	4	3	—	18
6	Cinemas ...	5	—	6	—	5	—	11
6	Shops not occupied ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
591		336	348	56	454	154	62	1,086

## HOUSING.

## MINERS' HOSTEL, LEADGATE.

There are now 53 families housed in these buildings and much has been done by alteration and the provision of separate cooking stoves, etc. to improve their condition. The lack of cleansing of corridors, passages, lavatories and baths etc. has again caused trouble, and the Council has now decided to take over responsibility for the periodic cleansing of those parts which are used in common by the occupiers and to charge a slightly increased rental for the service.

This arrangement should bring about a much needed improvement.

## COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEMES.

During the year under review a further 195 houses have been erected by the Council, details being as follows :—

*Hamsterley Colliery.*

Traditional Houses ...	...	...	...	12
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

*Cutlers Hall Site.*

B.I.S.F. Houses ...	...	...	...	42
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

*Blackhill (including Woodlands Road).*

Traditional (Direct Labour) Houses	...	42
------------------------------------	-----	----

Traditional Houses ...	...	...	...	18
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

*Moorside.*

Traditional Houses ...	...	...	...	34
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

*Medomsley.*

Traditional Houses ...	...	...	...	47
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Total	...	...	195
-------	-----	-----	-----

Further housing work is in hand at Bradley Square, Leadgate, Moorside, and Medomsley, and tenders have been invited for the erection of 60 houses on the Cutlers Hall Road Estate.



## PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

12 houses have been erected for owner occupiers, the situation of these being as set out below:—

East Law Estate	...	...	...	...	4
Hamsterley Mill Estate	...	...	...	...	7
Ebchester	...	...	...	...	1
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	12
					==

Since the end of the war a total of 826 houses have been built.

	<i>Council Houses.</i>	<i>Private.</i>
1946 ... ..	58	10
1947 ... ..	238	16
1948 ... ..	268	29
1949 ... ..	195	12
		—
Totals ...	759	67
		==

## HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses in respect of which owners have given undertakings not to use the houses (once vacated) for human habitation	...	...	...	...	239
Number of houses actually demolished	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	1

The following unfit houses which were dealt with by Clearance Area Schemes or by demolition are still standing in ruinous condition :—

9, East View, Templetown	...	...	...	1
3/10, William Street, Blackhill	...	...	...	8
12/19, Benfieldside Road, Blackhill	...	...	...	8
36/41, Benfieldside Road, Blackhill	...	...	...	6
49/53, Wood Street, Shotley Bridge	...	...	...	5
1/2, Hetheringtons Cottages, Medomsley	...	...	...	2
1/6, Chapel Row, Iveston	...	...	...	6
Traveller's Rest, Iveston	...	...	...	1
				—
Total	...	...	...	37
				==

Of the 239 houses indicated above Consett Iron Company have agreed not to relet 91 in the Bottle Bank Area.

Bottle Bank	...	...	...	...	48
West Row	...	...	...	...	34
Waltons Row	...	...	...	...	9
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	91
					==

These unfit one bedroom houses are cramped together surrounded by rough unmade streets and are entirely lacking in domestic facilities. At present 15 are unoccupied and as far as possible efforts are being made to empty one street at a time, if necessary by agreed arrangement of tenancies on the site.

A similar agreement has been made with the National Coal Board in respect of 146 houses at Hamsterley Colliery.

Park Row	...	...	...	...	22
Edward Row	...	...	...	...	24
North Row	...	...	...	...	16
School Row	...	...	...	...	16



Cronewell Row	...	...	...	...	16
Office Block ...	...	...	...	...	3
Dene Row ...	...	...	...	...	18
The Cements	...	...	...	...	31
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	146

These houses are also badly situated and all streets are unmade. In the great majority of cases they have only one bedroom and there is general dilapidation throughout. To date 19 houses are standing empty.

Had conditions been normal it is quite clear your Council would have included these 237 houses in Clearance Areas, but as this is not practicable I am of opinion the present arrangement is an excellent one. The existing tenants will not receive any priority for new houses, and they will not be asked to make any temporary removal against their wishes.

48 houses in Prospect Row and Jubilee Terrace, Hamsterley Colliery, were considered to have a sufficient life to justify expenditure on repairs. General pointing work has been carried out, repairs and renewals to roofs and spouts, wash-up sinks provided throughout, and the unsatisfactory ashpits have been replaced by separate Ash Bins for each house.

#### OVERCROWDING.

6 new cases of overcrowding were found, in each case the family having grown to an overcrowded condition. 10 overcrowding cases were relieved by removal to houses controlled by the Council and affecting 63 persons.

The list of known legally overcrowding cases now stands at 90.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

There are 53 registered producers of milk in the Council's area, 7 of these are producing "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and a further 18 are licensed as "Accredited" producers. In three cases

“ Tuberculin Tested ” milk is bottled on the farm before retailing but the majority of the producers dispose of their milk in bulk to be pasteurised, either by the Co-operative Society at Annfield Plain or the Milk Marketing Board at Langley Bridge. Many of the producer-retailers are using the Milk Marketing Board's scheme in which the Board collect the milk supplies and after treatment return the milk bottled ready for delivery to the consumer. Practically all the non-producer retailers obtain their supplies from the Board also, with the result that most of the milk retailed in the area is now designated milk.

This new arrangement has raised the question in some cases of the temporary storage of the bottled milk between delivery to the Retailer and its actual sale and retailers are being requested whenever necessary to see that the milk is adequately protected from the elements and from any other conditions likely to affect its purity.

New legislation under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, which re-enacts with amendments the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-43.

#### THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries now become responsible for the whole of the production side of milk, including the registration of farms and persons, while the Local Authority are responsible for the provisions relating to diseases communicable to man, and for the registration and supervision of milk premises and persons handling it other than producers.

#### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

These regulations are concerned with heat treated milk and provide for the use by licence of the usual designations “ Pasteurised ” and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ” and a new special

designation “ Sterilised ” is introduced. Persons selling these milks are required to be licensed by the Local Authority. Seven licences have been issued for the use of the new designation “ Sterilised.” Fees for licences have been abolished.

#### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

These apply only to raw milk and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are responsible for the provision relating to production. After the 1st October, 1954, the special designation “ Accredited ” will no longer be permitted to be used. Dealers and supplementary licences in relation to Raw Milk are issued by the Local Authority and the following were issued during the year :—

Dealers Licences 1. Supplementary Licences 4.

Inspection of the various premises and vehicles have been carried out and some minor contraventions of the regulations have been dealt with.

Licences and registrations in force in the area at the end of the year were as follows :—

No. of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	53
No. of Farms registered as Dairies			...	53
Other registered Dairies	...	...	...	20
Wholesale (only) Producers		...	...	29
Tuberculin Tested Producers		...	...	7
Accredited Producers	...	...	...	18
Retail Purveyors in the area			...	49
Retail Purveyors from outside the area	...			10
Dealers Licences : Tuberculin Tested		...		14
„ „ Pasteurised		...	...	31
„ „ Sterilised		...	...	7
Supplementary Licences : Tuberculin Tested				6
„ „ Pasteurised		...		5
„ „ Accredited		...		1

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Ministry of Food controls the one Slaughter House in use, and here animals are slaughtered and dressed prior to transport to the various shops in the Consett area and in Lanchester Rural Area. The premises were formerly used by the Consett Co-operative Society for their own private slaughtering requirements.

After grading, animals are brought into the pens as required and are subjected to ante-mortem inspection. A building near the slaughter house is used by the Wholesale Meat Supply Association as a store for imported meat and these premises are regularly visited.

The Contractor responsible for the distribution of meat to the Consett Shops takes an intelligent interest in the work and generally his covered vehicles are very well kept. Recently he has acquired two insulated delivery vans. Special containers are used for the conveyance of all offals.

The unsatisfactory shop premises referred to in my last report are at present vacant awaiting repairs. In the meantime the Butcher concerned is using other premises which are being kept clean and are subject to regular inspection.

Altogether 10,662 animals were slaughtered during the year as follows :—

Bulls	...	...	...	36
Bullocks	...	...	...	540
Cows	...	...	...	418
Heifers	...	...	...	1,160
Calves	...	...	...	656
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	7,730
Pigs	...	...	...	122
Total				10,662

Of this number 433 animals were classified as casualties :—

Bulls	...	...	...	11
Bullocks	...	...	...	15
Cows	...	...	...	92
Heifers	...	...	...	34
Calves	...	...	...	66
Sheep	...	...	...	162
Pigs	...	...	...	53
				<hr/>
Total	...	...		433
				<hr/>

Two cows were sent in for slaughter by Veterinary Officers under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

A hundred per cent meat inspection has been maintained and detailed examination is made of all casualties. Special attention has been given to the search for evidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* but up to the present no animal has been found to be affected.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed ... ..	1,736	418	656	7,730	122
Number Inspected ... ..	1,736	418	656	7,730	122
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole Carcases condemned...	9	26	11	32	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	573	149	3	82	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tubercul- osis ... ..	33.52	41.86	2.13	1.47	9.83
Tuberculosis Only :					
Whole Carcases condemned	125	29	1	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	125	142	1	—	11
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	7.77	40.93	.30	—	11.47

# CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Total Carcases etc. found to be unfit for human consumption during year 1949.

	CARCASSES, ETC.					Lungs.	Ox. Hearts.	Livers		Heads		PLUCKS			Cow Udders.	Ox Stomachs & Intestines.
	Beast.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Ox.			Ox.	Pig.			Sheep.	Calves.	Pig.		
Tuberculosis ...	39 +, 20 qrs. + 96 lbs.	1		3	251		12	8	124	9		1	4		3	7
Actinomycosis ...																
Septic Pneumonia ...	1			1	4							1				
Cirrhosis ...			3					684	5							
Johnes Disease ...	3															
Septic Metritis ...	1															
Fever (Acute) ...	3			1												
Swine Erysipelas ...				2												
Septic Conditions ...	5	6	6	1											41	
Mastitis ...																
C. Haemangioma ...								6								
Oedema & Emaciation ...	20	3	13	1				2				65				
Parasites ...																
Dead, Moribund, Imperfect ...																
Bleeding ...	2		7													
Immaturity ...		2														
Decomposition ...	82 lbs.															
Traumatism ...	327 lbs.		1 + 98 lbs. 2 + 59 lbs.	113 lbs. + 2	1			1	1							1
Abscesses ...								7							3	
Totals ...	74 + 20 Qrs. + 505 lbs.	12	32 + 157 lbs.	11 + 113 lbs.	256		12	708	130	9		66	1	4	47	8



## IMPORTED MEAT.

The following meat was distributed to the trade in addition to home killed :—

Hind Quarters Beef	...	...	2,007
Fore Quarters Beef	...	...	1,842
Sheep	...	...	2,998
Lambs	...	...	17,275
Pork Sides	...	...	280
Bags of Pork	...	...	115
6 lb. tins Corned Beef...	...	...	14,436
12 oz. tins Corned Beef	...	...	42,720

The following amounts were found on examination to be unfit for human consumption on account of unsound conditions, bone taint, mould, etc. :—

6 lb. tins Corned Beef...	...	123
12 oz. tins Corned Beef	...	24
Frozen Beef	...	572 lbs.
Frozen Mutton...	...	74 lbs.

## OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

A list is set out below of various articles of food examined at retail shops, warehouses, etc., and found to be unsound, unwholesome or so damaged as to be unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Tinned Goods.</i>	<i>Various Foodstuffs.</i>
434 tins Milk.	290 lbs. Barley.
198 „ Vegetables.	280 „ Oatmeal.
171 „ Fish.	168 „ Chitterlings.
151 „ Meat.	154 „ Plaice.
118 „ Fruit.	116 „ Cod Fillets.
72 „ Soup.	80 „ Noodles.
56 „ Tomatoes.	80 „ Halibut.
17 „ Tomato Juice.	52 „ Pease Pudding.
10 „ Strained Foods.	31½ „ Sausage.
9 „ Jam.	28 „ Prunes.
9 „ Fruit Juice.	28 „ Macaroni.



*Tinned Goods*

7	„	M. & V.
5	„	Syrup.
4	„	Cornish Pasties.
3	„	Spaghetti.
3	„	Dried Egg.
3	„	Mincemeat.
3	„	Golden Corn.
2	„	Puddings.
2	„	Apple Sauce.
2	„	Rhubarb.
2	„	Pease Pudding.
1 tin		Potatoes.
1	„	Bacon.
1	„	Rabbit.

*Bottled Goods.*

76	Jars	Pickles.
16	„	Jam.
11	„	Beetroot.
8	„	Fishpaste.
4	„	Salad Dressing.
7	Bottles	Sauce.
2	„	Gooseberries.

*Various Foodstuffs.*

28	„	Kippers.
20	„	Dried Apricots.
19	„	Rice.
18	„	Dried Milk.
14	„	Prawns.
12	„	Tomatoes.
5	„	Dried Peaches.
4½	„	Sage.
3½	„	Flour.
3	„	Cake.
2¼	„	Tea.
232		Eggs.
205		Meat Pies.
64		Fishcakes.
24		Australian Rabbits.
16		Malt Loaves.
4		Rissoles.
1		Parcel Sheep Casings.

## CIRCULAR 2886.

Food found to be unfit for sale and returned to the Ministry of Food in accordance with this Circular :—

109 lbs.	Butter.	20 stones	Flour.
57 „	Bacon.	47 pkts.	Cheese.
23 „	Cheese.		
14 „	Margarine.		
11 „	Ham.		
5 „	Beef Suet.		

### PRIVATE SLAUGHTERING.

71 Pigs were examined in various parts of the district following slaughter for private use by the owners.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

315 visits of inspection have been made to food preparation rooms, Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens.

Considerable improvement has been noted particularly in premises used by the Butchers, and the Bakeries generally are well kept. In many cases food distributors are anxious to improve their premises and shop fittings. Your Council has made application for the adoption of the Model Byelaws relating to the handling wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.

The open market is being used practically to capacity and in a number of cases foodstuffs are being sold. In windy weather the conditions are far from good and food will have to be carefully protected to keep it free from dust and dirt. At present no meat is sold in the market. It was only necessary on one occasion to condemn foodstuffs when a case of prawns was found to be unfit for human consumption.

Five premises are registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and they are very regularly visited. These producers are anxious to carry out the job efficiently and to get good results.

19 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for analysis, the result being disappointing.

8	were	provisionally	graded	1
1	was	„	„	2
4	were	„	„	3
6	„	„	„	4

The samples were obtained between June and September and it is perhaps only fair to add that in some cases the premises were being altered and new machinery fixed. 71 shops are registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream, more than 50 of these for the sale of wrapped Ice Cream only.

## FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

There were no outbreaks during 1949.

## RODENT CONTROL.

A total of 233 visits were made to Business Premises, Private Dwellings and Council owned properties. Special attention was given to refuse tips and the land used for this purpose at Cutlers Hall and Consett Fell was given poison treatment whilst the more compact tip at Howden Dene was treated by Cymag Gassing.

Maintenance treatment of Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works at six monthly intervals and the annual test baiting of manholes was completed in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries requirements.

195 manholes were baited with Sausage Rusk during the first treatment in March and infestation was recorded in 90 cases. In September 187 manholes were treated and infestation found in 104 cases. The test baiting of 95 manholes was carried out in conjunction with the latter maintenance scheme. The half-yearly treatments of Sewage Disposal Works were undertaken simultaneously with the Sewer Campaign and showed satisfactory results. Both the main works at Ebchester and Pont Sewage Works appear to be quite clear while at Knitsley and Crookhall Works the infestation is very small.

A total of 24 dwellings houses were treated with poison, and rat proofing recommended where expedient.

Close relations are maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who administer the Rodent Control Schemes. Four visits have been made during the year by Ministry representatives in a supervisory capacity.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A total of 225 notifications of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) was received during 1949 compared with 774 in 1948. The decrease was largely due to the lessened prevalence of Scarlet Fever (52 compared with 111), Measles (142 compared with 522) and Whooping Cough (19 compared with 104). The following table shows the number of cases notified and the number admitted to an isolation hospital or already in an institution for the last ten years.

Cases notified and admitted to Hospital during the last ten years.

	1949		1948		1947		1946		1945		1944		1943		1942		1941		1940	
	Notified	Admitted Hospital	Notified	Admitted Hospital	Notified	Admitted Hospital	Notified	Admitted Hospital	Notified	Admitted Hospital	Notified	Admitted Hospital	Notified	Admitted Hospital	Notified	Admitted Hospital	Notified	Admitted Hospital	Notified	Admitted Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	52	38	111	69	64	52	41	33	48	35	15	11	62	43	83	50	47	32	28	14
Diphtheria ...	1	1	2	6	1	1	14	13	13	11	33	33	29	23	18	17	18	18	10	10
Erysipelas ...	1	1	5	0	4	1	6	0	11	0	15	2	14	0	19	0	10	0	5	0
Pneumonia ...	9	1	21	2	20	2	20	3	43	2	48	3	68	3	40	3	27	3	43	0
Measles ...	142	2	522	9	385	13	218	0	117	1	306	0	291	0	299	6	376	3	1243	13
Whooping Cough...	19	1	104	1	29	0	108	2	11	0	65	0	72	0	75	0	120	2	196	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0	3	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	4	2	1	1	1
Malaria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	8	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	10	8	7	5	5	3
Polio-myelitis ...	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric & Para-Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	47
Dysentery...	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning ...	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## SCARLET FEVER.

There was a fall in the number of cases during 1949, 52 as compared with 111 in 1948. The cases were mild in type and generally free from complications. There were no deaths from this disease. 38 of the cases were treated in hospital and the remainder at home. There were no ill effects as a result of home treatment.

## DIPHTHERIA.

Only 1 case of diphtheria occurred in the year under review and was treated in hospital. It is significant that this case occurred in a non-immunised child. When one recalls the incidence and mortality of this disease in past years, no one can deny the value of immunisation. The number of notifications and deaths for the last 23 years are given in the following table and there has not been a single death from diphtheria in your district during the last 6 years.

YEAR.	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Cases Notified ...	95	129	140	141	49	60	183	234	150	164	180	154
Deaths ...	9	11	6	5	2	2	11	16	15	16	15	14

YEAR.	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases Notified ...	73	10	18	18	29	33	13	14	1	2	1
Deaths ...	11	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The responsibility for the work was transferred to the Local Health Authority by the National Health Service Act. The following figures do not include work done by private practitioners, only those done by your M.O.H. on behalf of the County Council.

Children under 5 years receiving 2 doses of A.P.T. during 1949—385.



Children over 5 and under 15 years receiving 2 doses of A.P.T. during 1949—10.

Children receiving reinforcing doses during 1949—103.

There is a very good response to immunisation in this area, and it has met with great co-operation from the public.

#### MEASLES.

This disease was again prevalent during 1949, and 142 cases were notified compared with 522 last year. Fortunately there were no deaths from this disease. Two cases were admitted to Isolation Hospital because of complications. The disease appears to have been of a mild type.

#### WHOOPING COUGH.

There were 19 cases notified in 1949 compared with 104 in the previous year. There were no deaths and one case was admitted to hospital.

#### DYSENTERY.

There were no cases notified during the year.

#### FOOD POISONING

There were no cases notified during the year.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

There was a welcome fall in the number of new notifications of Tuberculosis during 1949. The number was 49 compared with 72 in 1948. The position is shown in the following table which gives the figures for the last 11 years.

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning of 1938 was 99 Pulmonary and 85 Non-Pulmonary cases and at the end of 1949 the corresponding figures were 251 and 172. The re-housing of tubercular families has not gone on as rapidly as one could wish. This is entirely due to the abnormal demand for houses. Eighteen families were re-housed during 1949.

Year.	Total Noti- fica- tions.	Pulmonary.	Non- Pulmonary.	Deaths.	Recovered	Removed from Area.
1939	49	35	14	23	—	4
1940	39	25	14	13	10	6
1941	39	26	13	18	10	7
1942	39	17	22	12	4	7
1943	43	31	12	24	3	8
1944	77	45	32	18	5	4
1945	54	34	20	28	19	4
1946	47	33	14	17	9	3
1947	59	43	16	20	11	5
1948	72	53	19	22	1	10
1949	49	40	9	25	Nil.	5
Totals	567	382	185	220	72	63

#### TUBERCULOSIS DEATHRATE.

There was a welcome fall during 1949 and the rate was 0.61 compared with the previous years 0.66 per thousand population. The services of the Mass Radiography Unit which were delayed by the absence of suitable electric supply. has now visited the area and will be dealt with in the next report. The County deathrate for pulmonary Tuberculosis was even lower than last year's, 0.48, this is the lowest on record, the rate for the non-pulmonary type was 0.08, the corresponding rates in Consett was pulmonary 0.61, and non-pulmonary nil. The rates for the last ten years are shown in the following table :—

Year	...	...	...	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Tuberculosis Deathrate	...	...	...	0.43	0.51	0.58	0.67	0.79	0.48	0.68	0.50	0.66	0.61
Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	0.30	0.41	0.34	0.61	0.51	0.39	0.46	0.40	0.51	0.61
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	0.13	0.10	0.24	0.06	0.28	0.09	0.22	0.10	0.15	—



## SCABIES AND INFESTATIONS.

There was a further drop in the number of cases of scabies coming to our notice during 1949. There were 23 cases of which 3 were reinfestations. In addition to the cases 41 known contacts were given treatment and the number of families involved was 11. The following table shows the position since 1942 and the success that has been met in dealing with this problem.

Year.			Cases Scabies.	Known Contacts.	Reinfesta- tions.	Families Affected.
1942	...	...	444	387		
1943	...	...	423	462	49	167
1944	...	...	475	400	47	169
1945	...	...	285	248	27	92
1946	...	...	248	194	18	77
1947	...	...	74	49	16	25
1948	...	...	51	59	3	21
1949	...	...	23	41	3	11

## HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Journal "Better Health" was circulated monthly to the various schools, Associations, etc. in the district and suitable health leaflets were distributed as opportunity occurred.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF RAINFALL, Etc., 1949.

Mr. T. Hutton, Surveyor, has kindly supplied the following information regarding weather conditions during the year :—

Month.	Rainfall in inches.	Heaviest daily fall.	No. of days rain fell.	No. of days snow fell.
1949.				
January ... ..	1.06	7th day	13	—
February ... ..	1.09	22nd „	12	1
March ... ..	1.27	10th „	8	7
April ... ..	1.52	5th „	16	—
May ... ..	1.02	18th „	9	
June ... ..	.72	1st „	9	
July ... ..	2.48	13th „	10	
August ... ..	2.78	22nd „	11	
September ... ..	1.36	24th „	11	
October ... ..	2.57	25th „	15	
November ... ..	3.80	17th „	25	
December ... ..	3.62	10th „	20	2
	23.29		159	10

The rainfall recorded for 1949 including snowfalls was below the average for the British Isles and also below the rainfall for 1948 when 33.85 ins. was recorded.

The three wettest days of 1949 were July 13th (1.21 ins.), August 22nd (1.02 ins.), and October 25th (1.13 ins.).

Snow fell on 10 days, all falls being light which is remarkable for Consett, the highest point of which is 904 feet above sea level.

Thunder was heard on 5 days—peals being light with the exception of those on August 22nd and September 16th which were heavy, and that on the former date was accompanied by hailstones of extra large size which broke glass panes in most greenhouses throughout the district and did considerable damage to growing vegetable crops.

Fog and mist were observed on 89 days but in most cases the mist cleared in a few hours after sunrise.

The driest periods without rain were as follows :—June 13th to June 27th—15 days.; September 30th to October 7th—8 days, also several periods of 6 days.

The Council do not as yet possess a sunshine recording instrument but records from the nearby station at the Forestry Commission, Chopwell Wood, Rowlands Gill are given hereunder.

Total sunshine for 1949—1385.6 hours as against 1276.4 hours for 1948. 1949 has the highest sunshine record for several years. June had the most sunshine with 220.7 hours, May coming next with 202.6 hours.



Durham County Press Ltd.